

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MANILA 12107

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ID, US
SUBJECT: SHIPS FOR INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 10523

1. I HAVE SPOKEN TO ADMIRAL KILCLINE IN SUBIC ABOUT CONCERNS YOU HAVE RAISED IN REFTTEL WITH RESPECT FOUR WHEC'S BEING OFFERED TO INDONESIA. HE AND I ALSO DISCUSSED POTENTIAL INDONESIAN SENSITIVITY CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DE-TYPE VESSELS TO PHILIPPINES.

2. WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THERE ARE SUPERFICIAL DEFICIENCIES IN THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE WHEC'S AT SUBIC, I DOUBT THAT AN EXPERIENCED NAVAL OBSERVER WOULD CONSIDER THEM "DEPLORABLE". THEY BADLY NEED A PAINT JOB, BUT THEY ARE STILL IMPRESSIVE SHIPS BY SOUTHEAST ASIAN STANDARDS. HOWEVER, RESPONSIVE TO YOUR MESSAGE, SUBIC WILL DO SOME HOUSEKEEPING ON THEM PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION IN PHILIPPINES.

3. MOREOVER, TO MEET IN SOME MEASURE THE SENSITIVITY ABOUT DE TYPES, THE SOLE DER AT SUBIC WILL BE TOWED AWAY FROM IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY TO THE WHEC'S AND MOVED ELSEWHERE.

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THE INDONESIANS SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE

PHILIPPINES CURRENTLY HAS ONLY ONE DE IN ITS FLEET, AND EVEN IF IT ACQUIRES THREE MORE, WILL STILL FALL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THE NINE DE TYPES IN THE INDONESIAN INVENTORY.

4. MOST IMPORTANTLY, ADMIRAL KILCLINE OFFERS TO SEND TO JAKARTA, IF YOU AND THE INDONESIANS SO DESIRE, AN EXPERT FROM HIS SHIP REPAIR FACILITY WHO CAN GIVE INDONESIAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES A DETAILED ADVANCE BRIEFING ON THE CONDITION OF THE FUR WHEC'S AND TWO PATROL CRAFT BEING OFFERED TO INDONESIA. THIS WILL PREPARE THE OBSERVERS INTELLECTUALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY FOR WHAT THEY WILL FIND AT SUBIC. WHEN THEY SUBSEQUENTLY EYEBALL THEIR BOOTY, THEY OUGHT TO FEEL LIKE TEDDY ROOSEVELT WHEN HE FIRST SAW THE GREAT WHITE FLEET.

5. PLEASE LET ME KNOW SOONEST IF YOU WANT THE EXPERT IN JAKARTA AND, IF SO, WHEN.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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